

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 19, 20, 33, and 34 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-40 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,457,803 ("Ohkoda").

The invention defined in independent claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 19, 20, 33, and 34 relates to a method, an apparatus, and a computer program product for recording ink dots. Independent claims 1, 19, 33, and 34 have been amended to further clarify one of the features of the present invention. Specifically, independent claims 1, 19, 33, and 34 require that the controller has "(a) a first recording mode to effect printing near an edge of the printing medium, in the first recording mode the controller performing edge printing by ejecting ink droplets from at least some of the dot-forming elements disposed opposite the slot and without ejecting ink droplets from dot-forming elements other than the dot-forming elements disposed opposite the slot, and (b) a second recording mode to effect printing in an intermediate portion of the print medium."

Claims 2 and 20 have been amended to be independent form. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to be independent form.

Independent claims 1, 2, 14, 15, 19, 20, 33, and 34, and their dependent claims are believed to be allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

(1) Claims 1, 19, 33, and 34

Ohkoda shows "the platen plate 121," "the rear side ink receiving port 133," "the platen plate 121," "the front side ink receiving port 132," and "the platen plate 121" in the order in Figs. 15 and 16. Ohkoda also shows that "[i]nk droplets 126b thus discharged are mainly directed toward the front side ink receiving port 132, and ink droplets 126a thus discharged are directed to the front edge portion 137 of the recording medium 127 to form the border 134" (column 13, lines 37-41 and Fig. 15), and "[i]nk droplets 126c thus discharged are mainly directed toward the rear side ink receiving port 133, and ink droplets 126d thus discharged are directed to the rear edge portion 138 of the recording medium 127 to form the border on the rear edge portion" (column 13, lines 50-54 and Fig. 16).

However, in Ohkoda, ink droplets are discharged from all nozzles in printing of the front edge portion 137 and the rear edge portion 138 (see, for example, Figs. 15 and 16, and column 16, lines 34-36; and column 16, lines 47-49). Ohkoda neither teaches nor suggests “a first recording mode to effect printing near an edge of the printing medium, in the first recording mode the controller performing edge printing by ejecting ink droplets from at least some of the dot-forming elements disposed opposite the slot and without ejecting ink droplets from dot-forming elements other than the dot-forming elements disposed opposite the slot” as recited in claim 1 of this application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined in independent claim 1 is patentable over Ohkoda. Since independent claims 19, 33, and 34 contain similar recitations as those of claim 1, the invention defined in these independent claims is also believed to be patentable over the cited art for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 1. Claims dependent from independent claims 1, 19, 33, and 34 either directly or indirectly are also believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claims 1, 19, 33, and 34. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

(2) Claims 2 and 20

Ohkoda describes the printing in which “the recording of the border 13 begins with the right edge 9a without the formation of a non-recording area on the recording medium 9” (column 6, lines 48-50) and the printing that is able to “eliminate the formation of a non-recording area on the left edge 9b of the recording medium 9” (column 6, lines 55-57). In the printing, “[a]fter recording the borders 13, the recording head 7 terminates ink discharging within the range of L3 in FIG. 1” (column 6, lines 60-61). Accordingly, Ohkoda describes in column 6, lines 45-67 the printing which does create non-recording areas in both left and right sides.

However, Ohkoda neither teaches nor suggests “a second recording mode ..., a maximum sub-scan feed amount in the second recording mode being greater than a maximum sun-scan feed amount in the first recording mode” as recited in claim 2. Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be patentable over Ohkoda. Since claim 20 has similar recitations, claim 20 is also believed to be patentable for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claim 2.

Claims dependent from claims 2 and 20 either directly or indirectly are believed to be allowable at least for the same reasons set forth above in connection with claims 2 and 20.

(3) Claims 14 and 15

Ohkoda shows “the front side ink receiving port 132” that receives ink droplets 126b (column 13, lines 37-41 and Fig. 15), and “the rear side ink receiving port 133” that receives ink droplets 126c (column 13, lines 50-54 and Fig. 16). Ohkoda also shows (1) “the platen plate

121” downstream from “the front side ink receiving port 132,” (2) “the platen plate 121” between “the front side ink receiving port 132” and “the rear side ink receiving port 133” and (3) “the platen plate 121” upstream from “the rear side ink receiving port 133” (Figs. 15 and 16).

However, in Ohkoda, (1) the platen plate 121 downstream from the front side ink receiving port 132, and (3) the platen plate 121 upstream from the rear side ink receiving port 133 are not facing “nozzle array 125.” In Ohkoda, when “the first movable platen plate 122” is closing “the front side ink receiving port 132,” “the first movable platen plate 122” may “face nozzle array 125.” However, in that condition, the printer in Ohkoda does not have the front side ink receiving port 132 for receiving ink droplets 126b. In a similar manner, when “the second movable platen plate 123” is closing “the rear side ink receiving port 133,” “the second movable platen plate 123” may “face nozzle array 125.” However, in that condition, the printer in Ohkoda does not have the rear side ink receiving port 133 for receiving ink droplets 126c.

The slits in Ohkoda are not slots for receiving ink droplets that appear between the platen plate 121, the first movable platen plate 122, the platen plate 121, the second movable platen plate 123 and the platen plate 121 when the first movable platen plate 122 and the second movable platen plate 123 are closed.

Accordingly, Ohkoda neither teaches nor suggests the dot recording device including “a first support configured to support the print medium, ... at a position opposite a first sub-group of dot-forming elements,” “a first slot ... at a position opposite a second sub-group of dot-forming elements” and “a second support configured to support the print medium, ... at a position opposite a third sub-group of dot-forming elements” as recited in claims 14 and 15. Therefore, the invention defined in claims 14 and 15 are believed to be patentable over Ohkoda.

II. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 510-843-6200.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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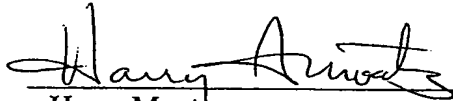
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Harry Moatz,
Director of Enrollment and Discipline